

# big faith

## SESSION 12

### Unit 3: Recipe for Love

**Faith Focus:** Jesus teaches us to love and welcome others.

*Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. (John 13:34)*

## GROW IN FAITH

### One Part Compassion—Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the good Samaritan is told in the context of an interaction between Jesus and a lawyer. The lawyer wants to test Jesus and so he asks questions. Rather than answering directly, Jesus answers the question with a question and follows with a story. Much of this interaction comes out of skepticism and debates around social expectations.

In some retellings today, people use the word “neighbor” instead of “Samaritan.” This change potentially weaves both of the lawyer’s questions into one. Removing the identifiers gives us an opportunity to put ourselves in all roles of the story. When we read it in this way, we might gain more compassion for everyone—maybe even those who might turn away from a neighbor in need. This story reminds us to look at ourselves and how the person we are reflects in the lives of others. Christ-like compassion allows us to see people fully, regardless of race, gender, culture, or ability, and then take it one step further by seeing everyone as our neighbor. Jesus’ response to the lawyer continues to challenge us today: “Go and do likewise.”

- Broaden the understanding of “neighbor.”
- Explore biases.

## SESSION OUTLINE

### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

Compassion Bandages (Craft)

### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

### FUN WITH FAITH

Storytelling Theater (Drama)

Good Samaritan Word Search (Puzzle)

Helping My Neighbor (Service)

### SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

## SUPPLIES

pencils

scissors

CEB kids’ Bible or CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

crayons

bandages

coat

broom or hobby horse

water bottle

play money

supplies for UMCOR cleaning kit or other service project

# COME TOGETHER

## Prepare to Learn

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

**Prepare Ahead:** Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the bandage sticker on the Session 12 space.

**SAY:** Compassion is an important ingredient for love. Compassion means we care so much that we try to help others. When we care for others, we show love and we welcome.

## Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

**SAY:** Jesus told the story of someone who had a lot of compassion. In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus taught about what it means to love our neighbor.

**ASK:** Who do you care about? How do you show you care?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

## Compassion Bandages

**Supplies:** Activity Sheets, pencils, scissors

**Prepare Ahead:** Tear out "Compassion Bandages" (Session 12 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the activity sheet.

**SAY:** When we help others, we show compassion. One way to show we care is to tell others that we love them.

- Have the children follow directions for the "Compassion Bandages" activity sheet.

# FAITH CONNECTIONS

## Read the Story

**Supplies:** *CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**ASK:** How did the Samaritan show compassion? How do you think it made the injured man feel?

## Big Faith Video

**Supplies:** *Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 12 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, as small groups, or all together.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the video?

## Faith Response

**Supplies:** *All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Display the Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) and Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) if you haven't already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other" (John 13:34).

**SAY:** Jesus taught about the good Samaritan to help people understand how to love. It is not enough to tell people that we know how to love. We must show people we love them through our actions.

**ASK:** Has anyone ever helped you when you were sad?

**SAY:** The good Samaritan cared for someone he did not even know. We can show love to all people in all kinds of ways.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

**ASK:** What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write one way he or she can show compassion this week. Have the children put their notes on the poster.

## FUN WITH FAITH

### Storytelling Theater

**Supplies:** CEB Bible, bandages, coat, broom or hobby horse, water bottle, play money

**SAY:** The story of the good Samaritan has been shared as a recipe for compassion for over two thousand years. Let's retell the story together.

- Have children volunteer to be the priest, Levite, robbed man, and Samaritan.
- Give the Samaritan volunteer the props.
- Have another child read the story from Luke 10:25–37. As the story is read, have the volunteers act out their roles.

### Good Samaritan Word Search

**Supplies:** pencils

**Prepare Ahead:** Make copies of "Good Samaritan Word Search" (Leader Guide—p. 82).

**SAY:** The story of the good Samaritan reminds us that compassion is a key ingredient to showing love. Let's think about the people in this story and the ways in which they showed compassion.

- Hand out the reproducible and have the children follow the instructions to complete the "Good Samaritan Word Search."

## Helping My Neighbor

**Supplies:** materials needed for UMCOR cleaning kit or other supplies for a service mission

**Prepare Ahead:** Make arrangements to deliver finished cleaning kits to UMCOR. If you will be collecting supplies for a different organization, make any necessary arrangements for delivering those.

**SAY:** One way that the church shows compassion is through service. When disasters happen to a community, Christians all over the world try to help through service and supplies. We are going to work together to help others by preparing a kit for people who are cleaning up after a disaster.

- Have the children pack the kits. Talk about the ways each product will help people.

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) as needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

**SAY:** We show compassion when we try to help others when they are in need.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Have the children silently consider who might have needs in your community and how they might help.
- Invite the children to pray with you.

**PRAY:** Lord, help us recognize those who are hurting. Help us show love and compassion to everyone. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received it yet.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

## REPRODUCIBLE

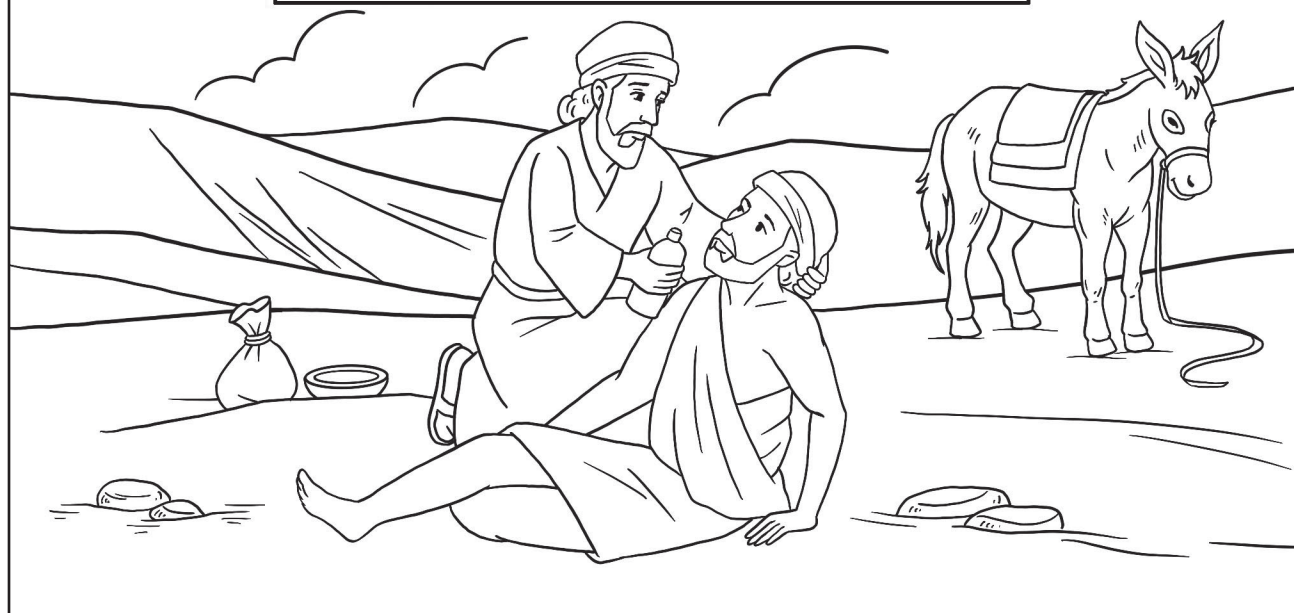
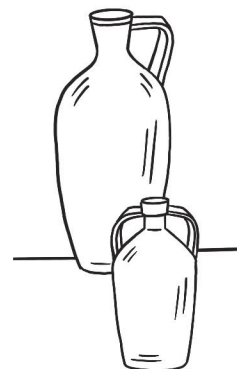
## SESSION 12

## Good Samaritan Word Search

Find the words below in the word search.

SAMARITAN  
LEVITE  
WOUNDS  
NEIGHBOR  
BANDAGE  
DONKEY  
LIKEWISE  
PRIEST  
MERCY

Q	H	S	T	N	Z	F	N	D	X	I	H	Y	H	I
J	W	A	E	B	P	Q	G	B	H	P	W	A	X	E
L	K	M	R	W	E	D	Y	Y	B	D	S	F	Z	B
N	A	A	Y	D	J	G	C	N	A	N	B	M	F	P
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H	Z	I	L	X	K	V	S	Y	D	X	D	R	W	O
G	S	T	G	M	T	F	H	M	A	U	U	C	Q	U
A	U	A	C	H	B	P	Y	F	G	Y	N	Y	K	N
S	T	N	U	H	B	P	J	G	E	O	B	T	W	D
D	L	O	K	C	J	O	U	P	S	B	Z	J	Q	S
O	H	P	L	E	H	S	R	S	F	N	S	F	F	D
N	M	A	T	E	B	H	L	I	K	E	W	I	S	E
K	N	H	I	Z	K	Q	B	S	S	N	F	Y	E	C
E	P	R	I	E	S	T	I	X	J	A	H	H	B	X
Y	A	V	T	C	H	N	Q	F	L	E	V	I	T	E



Art: Carolyn Williams/Gwen Walters Artists' Representative